(b) whether the conviction rate is miserable on account of faulty investigation and prosecution; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the data published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the conviction rate in NDPS Act cases during the last three years from 2003 to 2005 was around 61.00% as compared to overall conviction rate of around 41% in IPC cases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Problems to farmers on border due to fencing

2801. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousand acres of land has been rendered barren due to the fencing along the Indo-Pak border in J&K;

(b) if so, whether no compensation has been paid to the farmers till date, for their lands;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are aware that farmers are facing a lot of problems in transporting their agricultural products from fields to their homes, due to the time-schedule of opening and closing the border gates by security forces; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to prevent the unnecessary harassment and humiliation of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No land has been rendered barren due to fencing along the Indo-Pak border in J&K. However, BSF has acquired 22 feet wide stretch of land all along 180 km segment of International Border in Jammu, which is being gainfully utilized for erection of fencing and flood lighting. Due compensation has been paid to the affected farmers for their lands.

(d) and (e) The timings for opening/closing of fencing gates are fixed in consultation with the local panchayats and MLAs/MPs of the area. Local farmers who intend to cultivate their fields ahead of the fence are allowed to go across the fence in a regulated manner under proper security.

New Prisons Act

†2802. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a new Central Prisons Act, in place of Prisons Act, 1894; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Stripping of Dalit women in Madhya Pradesh

2803. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Dalit woman Sarpanch in Madhya Pradesh was stripped and beaten up by some persons of the village recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that she was paraded naked in the village;

(c) if so, the action taken against the culprits in this regard by the Police;

(d) whether some similar cases have also happened in the past in other States; if so, the reasons for failure of Government to protect the women, particularly the Dalits; and

(e) the steps/action being taken to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.